

JUST IN Appeals court says House may subpoena Trump's financial records from Deutsche Bank

https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/man-on-a-mission-local-man-takes-on-state-flying/article_21f4d822-28ce-531a-b0e1-3210b4d8a841.html

TOP STORY

Man on a mission: Local man takes on state flying challenges

MICHAEL BURKE LEE ENTERPRISES Dec 1, 2019

\$5 Digital Deal ends today!

1 of 3



Local financial planner and pilot Michael Haubrich, shown here with his light-sport airplane at Batten International Airport on Nov. 22, has flown into every public airport in three states. Here, Haubrich wears one of the leather aviator jackets he received for landing at all the airports in Wisconsin. He said, "It is safe to say the most expensive aviator leather jacket in the world." But it's "priceless."

RACINE — Talk about a frequent flier — that's Michael Haubrich.

Wisconsin has 124 public airports. Haubrich, a Racine accountant and licensed pilot with his own light-sport airplane, has flown into and out of all 124.

Iowa has 106 public airports. Haubrich has touched down and taken off from every one of them.

North Dakota has 89 public airports; Haubrich has done 89.

That's a total of 319 airports in three states, and he has flown into 100 percent of them.

Haubrich is on a personal mission to blanket up to five Midwest states that all have programs challenging pilots like himself to swoop in for visits. The Hawkeye State, for example, has the Fly Iowa Challenge, which Haubrich completed on Oct. 26.

Next summer, he wants to conquer Minnesota and South Dakota.

Haubrich has the proof of his flights: Wisconsin and North Dakota each have a small book in which the pilot collects a stamp at every airport visited. In Iowa, the pilot merely has to touch down on each runway and can lift off again in one continuous motion. Pilots prove their touchdowns with their Federal Aviation Administration logbooks.

Taking off

Haubrich, 62, is a certified public accountant and majority owner of Financial Service Group, 4812 Northwestern Ave. About five years ago he took up flying and, along the way, bought his own single-propeller, two-seat Flight Design CTLS airplane.

With the flying challenges, he explained, “They’re trying to promote general aviation. And when I say ‘they,’ it’s either the aeronautics division of the Department of Transportation in the state; Iowa has a separate nonprofit.”

Wisconsin started its program in September 2017, Haubrich said, and he promptly started his quest. It was his first conquest, and he did it over a 13-month period.

“Once this Fly Wisconsin program started,” he said, “it became a purpose (for flying).”

Usually, each program has three levels of accomplishment based on the number of airports reached. “There’s very few pilots that actually finish the entire program,” Haubrich said. But he has, in three states and counting.

“Iowa was the easiest state,” he said. “I could knock off 25 airports in a day. I could literally touch down (and take off again), and the only time I was stopping was for a bathroom break or fuel.”

Haubrich said that as far as he can tell, only he and one Minnesota pilot have completed multiple states’ flying challenges at the 100 percent level.

Getting out of Gackle

So far, the greatest of test of Haubrich’s flying skills was getting up and out of the little grass-strip airport at Gackle, N.D.

“This really required my use of all the stuff you learn in the classroom,” he said.

Gackle Municipal Airport is located in “the middle of nowhere,” Haubrich said. “There’s nothing around it at all. It is surrounded by water. ... They’re like big ponds.”

The airport has two perpendicular grass-strip runways that crisscross. Because of the wind that day, Haubrich had to use the shorter one, at 1,150 feet.

“Fuel was interesting,” he said, “because from where Gackle was, the closest fuel for me to get to was nearly an hour of flying away. So, I had to make sure when I got (to Gackle) I didn’t have too much fuel, so I could get performance to get out of there. ... Because I was right at the limit.”

“Running out of fuel is not a thing you want to do in the middle of North Dakota,” he continued, chuckling. “The good news is: You can put it down anywhere. The bad news is: No one’s gonna find you.”

Moreover, there was no local weather station information, Haubrich said. He had to use data from three other stations as much as 40 to 50 miles away, and try to guess what lay between them. All he had at Gackle was a wind sock and the shimmering of the surrounding water.

To make things even trickier, upon landing Haubrich discovered that the grass on the shorter airstrip he was forced to use had not been mowed that week.

Needless to say, Haubrich, with his wife, Tami Witt, sitting next to him, made it out and to his next airport.

“North Dakota has a very active program with people flying into these airports,” Haubrich said. “And any time I ran into a pilot who was doing it, after I did land in Gackle, they all asked me the same thing: ‘Did you actually land in Gackle?’

“Because what I found out is: Nobody lands in Gackle. They just overfly it, document that they’ve been there, take a picture and go. I actually went there and landed, which meant that I got a stamp in my book. That’s the one that I would say was the most intense.”

For flying into every airport, he said, “Four of the five states give you these really nice leather jackets, aviation jackets.”

Based on the cost of fuel and sometimes lodging, Haubrich acknowledged, “It is safe to say I have the most expensive aviator leather jacket in the world — (but) the experience was priceless.”

WEATHER FEATURE



Waves on Lake Michigan crash into the north pier near the lighthouse on Jan. 7. The view may change as city officials consider a \$3.65 million pier extension to help stop silt and sediment from building up at the mouth of the harbor.

kenosha news file photo by BRIAN PASSINO

ambrose4



Above, the sun rises slowly over Lake Michigan's dark, churning waters off the Kenosha lakeshore on a recent morning. At top, the tall ship the Red Witch sits at its moorings alongside the Kenosha Harbor.

ambrose4

John Sloca

kdisinwater





This image was taken by a Kenosha couple of local teens in swimming attire on the north pier who were seen jumping several times into Lake Michigan on Friday.

John Sloca

Feature photo



Shrouded by fog

Fog on Lake Michigan Wednesday partially obscures the Red Witch, a reproduction of an early 19th century Great Lakes schooner that regularly cruises the local coastline and is homeported in Kenosha.

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTO BY BILL SIEL

1246627.jpg



1246627

The Thomas family enjoying an early evening walk down by the Kenosha pier on Lake Michigan (Jake, Camryn, Samantha and Darin)

Submitted by Taylor Thomas

fishing



Casting for a bite, Tyler Niemeyer of St. Charles, Minn., makes his way back to shore to change lures while fishing Lake Michigan off the Pike River. Fishing columnist Bill Kloster believes the bite around town from the shoreline at Lake Michigan, although presently bleak, has the potential of providing "extra angling excitement that keeps fishermen awake at night."

fishing

John Sloca

Kiteboarding





Brian Erwin, of Kenosha, get his foil-equipped board out of the water while kiteboarding near the Pennoyer Park Sesquicentennial Band Shell on Lake Michigan.

Kiteboarding

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTOS BY KEVIN POIRIER

Kiteboarding



Brian Erwin, of Kenosha, get his foil-equipped board out of the water while kiteboarding off of the Pennoyer Sesquicentennial Band Shell on Lake Michigan.

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTO BY KEVIN POIRIER

Behind the Lens - Kiteboarding





Brian Erwin, of Kenosha, get his foil-equipped board out of the water while kiteboarding off of the Pennoyer Sesquicentennial Band Shell on Lake Michigan. When I headed to the lakefront to take photos of him in actino, I packed our longest lens, a 400 mm and brought a converter as I was expecting him to be out on the lake. To my surprise, he stayed pretty close to the shore and I found myself with a little too much of a zoom. This photograph filled the entire frame of the camera.

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTO BY KEVIN POIRIER

Kiteboarding



Charles Matalonis Jr., of Kenosha, starts his kiteboard from the beach by the Pennoyer Park Sesquicentennial Band Shell on Lake Michigan.

Kiteboarding

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTO BY KEVIN POIRIER

WEATHER FEATURE



Some peace of mind

"I like open space. I don't see the end of it, so that gives me peace of mind," said John Kramarz as he fished at the Pike River outlet into Lake Michigan at Pennoyer Park on Sunday.

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTO BY BRIAN PASSINO

STANDALONE WEATHER FEATURE

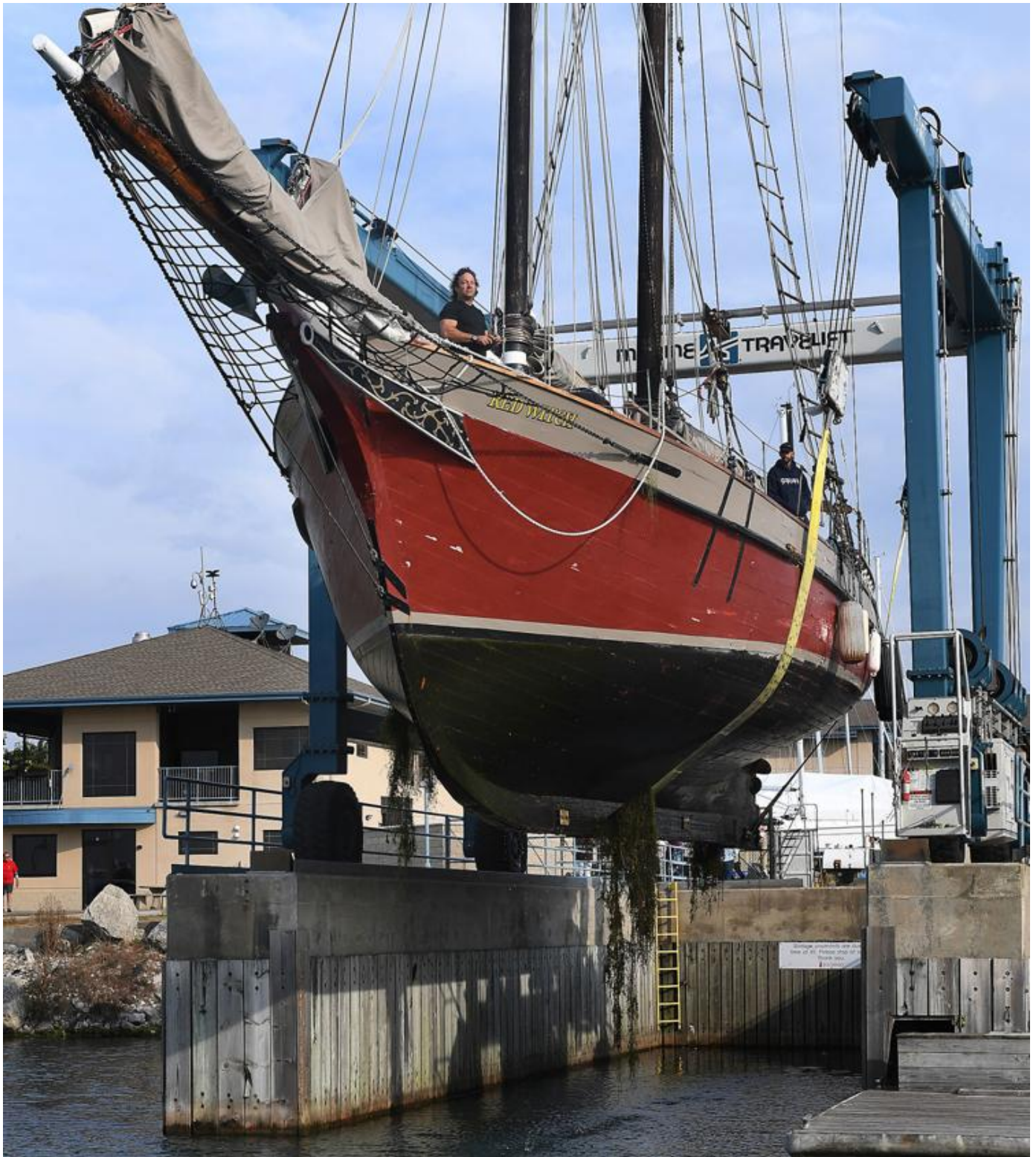


A wild ride on the Lake Michigan waters

A kiteboarder plays in the waves along Simmons Island on Thursday. It won't be much warmer today, despite mostly sunny skies in the forecast. Winds will be easterly from 10 to 20 mph today, and waves on the lake will be from 5 to 9 feet high. For more on the lake boating advisory and the AccuWeather forecast, see Page A12.

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTO BY SEAN KRAJACIC

Red Witch



Andrew Sadock, owner/captain of the Red Witch, oversees the dry dock procedure from the bow last fall at Southport Marina. The 77-foot double-masted schooner served 3,232 customers over summer 2017 in Kenosha. It is back in Lake Michigan this year and the ship will lead the procession of the Tall Ships Festival back to Kenosha in 2019.

KENOSHA NEWS FILE PHOTO BY BILL SIEL

weather photos



Another home game postponement for Kingfish

Kenosha Kingfish grounds crew members Nathan Hansen, left, and Drew Dyer (grandson of Kingfish manager Duffy Dyer and son of hitting coach Brian Dyer) fill in a muddy infield patch at Simmons Field on Wednesday afternoon. Wet field conditions delayed the midday game against the Lakeshore Chinooks before it was eventually postponed. It will be made up July 3 at 4:05 p.m. as the first game of a doubleheader consisting of two seven-inning games. Wednesday was the second consecutive day the Kingfish had a home contest postponed after rain washed out Tuesday night's tilt against the Wisconsin Woodchucks. That will be made up Aug. 2 at Simmons as part of a doubleheader starting at 4:30 p.m.

KENOSHA NEWS PHOTO BY BILL SIEL

[View Comments](#)

Most Popular

Fuller to be tried as an adult in Juga homicide case

Nov 28, 2019



'A terrifying day': Student shot by officer after allegedly pulling gun at Waukesha South High

Updated 6 min ago



'Friends'-themed coffee shop to open in Twin Lakes

Dec 1, 2019



Old lakeside resort going out in a blaze of glory

Nov 20, 2019



Fix It: Dumping At The Former Tarbender's

Nov 28, 2019



Mother anguished after teenage son's vaping death

Updated Nov 28, 2019



Drive-in plans to install rooftop tree Saturday

Updated Nov 29, 2019



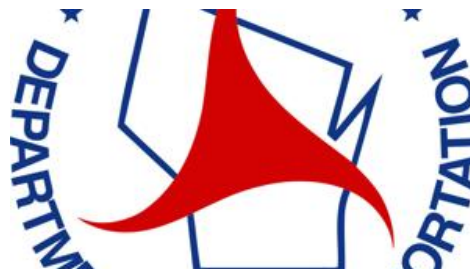
Brindisi Towers to return to Plan Commission

Updated Nov 30, 2019



Major rebuild of Hwy. 50 in Kenosha planned

Nov 27, 2019



Municipal Drunken driving convictions

Dec 1, 2019

